

CUSHIONING CONVERSION MACHINE AND METHOD WITH STOCK USAGE MONITORING

ABSTRACT

A method of determining a total amount of stock material passing through a cushioning conversion machine over a period of time during which a plurality of three-dimensional cushioning products are made. The method includes the acts of providing a sheet stock material; converting the sheet stock material into a plurality of the three-dimensional cushioning products with the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; monitoring the passage of stock material through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; storing in a computer memory information regarding the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time; and retrieving the stored information, the retrieved stored information providing an indication of the total amount of stock material that passed through the cushioning conversion machine during the period of time. The converting step is accomplished by a cushioning conversion machine including a conversion assembly and a stock supply assembly, sheet stock material being supplied from the stock supply assembly to the conversion assembly.

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